



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting

March 12, 2026

1:00pm

*MPTC Lynnfield Police Academy
425 Walnut St, Lynnfield, MA 01940*

- **Call to Order**
 - Chair J. Gilliland called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - February 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by N. Hovey.

- Approve the February 12, 2026 meeting minutes.
- Seconded by P. Cohen.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
- **EOPSS/OGR Updates**
 - None
- **MAPC Updates**
 - None
- **Council Membership Updates**
 - Vote to fill Law Enforcement Seat
 - NERAC received 3 applications
 - After submission, EOPSS issued guidance limiting representation to 1 per municipality, which disqualified 2 applicants
 - The remaining applicant is Captain Jolly from Woburn Police; his resume and application are included in the meeting packet.
 - The Council would prefer to have multiple candidates for consideration.

MOTION put forth by N. Hovey.

- Continue to advertise the open seat, with new eligibility requirements stated, to solicit additional candidates for consideration.
- Seconded by M. Collins.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None



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- The motion passed.
 - **Vote to fill Vice Chair Position**
 - Council member Michael Collins was appointed to serve as Vice Chair of NERAC.

MOTION put forth by C. Cousens.

- Nominate Michael Collins to serve as Vice Chair.
- A roll call vote was conducted.
 - In Favor: P. Cohen, M. Collins, C. Cousens, D. Evans, J. Gilliland, N. Hovey, P. Keefe, R. Knowles, S. Morrison, P. Parisi, C. Ryan, D. Sencabaugh, D. Spinosa
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed unanimously.
 - **Public Schools Seat**
 - S. Zrike has accepted a new position and will need to step down from the NERAC Public Schools seat.
 - MAPC will advertise the opening.
 - Committee Membership
 - Chair J. Gilliland encouraged all Council members to join a committee to ensure sufficient input and promote active participation.
 - The Training & Exercise, Regional Cache, and Sheltering Committees were noted as having current need for additional members.
 - The floor was opened for members to indicate interest.

MOTION put forth by S. Morrison.

- Appoint the following Council members to committees:
 - N. Hovey – Regional Cache Committee
 - P. Parisi – Regional Cache Committee
 - D. Evans – Training & Exercise Committee
 - R. Knowles – Training & Exercise Committee
 - P. Keefe – Training & Exercise Committee
- Seconded by C. Ryan.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
- **Budget Updates**
 - FFY23 – Grant end date: July 31, 2026
 - FFY24 – Grant end date: July 31, 2027
 - FFY25 – No updates at this time, waiting on word from EOPSS.
 - FFY26 – (see below)



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- **FFY26 Planning Discussion**
 - NERAC has not yet received any guidance for FFY26.
 - Given the tight timeline Councils were given for FFY25 planning it would be helpful to start collecting project requests soon.
 - Timeline for consideration:
 - Send out Project Request form soon
 - Due at the end of April
 - Invite requestors to present at the May meeting
 - Vote on allocations at the May meeting (if we've received guidance)
 - If guidance happens to come earlier, we will plan a meeting date accordingly.
 - Review drafted FFY26 Project Request Form and checklist
 - It was noted that the Council will need to consider their approach to BF/OT reimbursement funding requests in light of the new requirements to pay full rates.

- **Project Updates**
 - Nahant Harbormaster Vessel Upgrades
 - The vendor is currently delayed due to snow and will begin installation once conditions allow; MAPC will continue to follow up.
 - NEMLEC IMT Command Vehicle
 - Laptops and Networking Equipment
 - RFQ was conducted, awards are being confirmed, MAPC is getting POs signed.
 - MegaFi Mobile HPUE
 - NEMLEC is purchasing and being reimbursed by NERAC.
 - Van Upfitting:
 - Invitation for Bids, due 3/25.
 - NEMLEC SWAT Equipment/Transport Van
 - The van was delivered for upfitting on February 10th; vendor reports build is in final stages and on track for mid-March completion.
 - NEMLEC SWAT Night Vision
 - \$100,000.00 allocated in FFY24.
 - MAPC received information from SWAT on project needs and will move forward with a PJ and procurement after approval, in hopes to help with FFY23 spend down.

- **Committee/Working Groups**
 - Training & Exercise
 - Committee Chair J. Gilliland shared updates on projects including the ASIM and SSAVEIM Trainings, ASHER TTX for Acton/Boxborough/Groton/Littleton, Cape Ann ALICE and WAVR-21 Trainings, MetroWest ASHER/MCI Exercise Series.
 - Technical Rescue Drill ERRs and AARs were approved for FD-14 and NEMTRT.
 - Interoperability/Info Sharing



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- Committee Chair C. Ryan shared updates on many ongoing projects, including the Pow Wow Fiber Connection, FD-5/15 Mobile Gateway Installation, NSR911 Control Station Combiner, and noted that the VHF Wide Area Network project for Beverly/Rockport is a priority.
- ECFCA Electrical Circuit Redundancy
 - This is a critical project to provide a secondary electrical circuit with backup service to the communications equipment shelter at NSR911.
 - \$45,000 was originally allocated, but it was determined that new conduits would be needed, as well as other modifications that greatly increased the scope of work.
 - Quotes came in at \$110,000-\$140,000, but the procurement will need to be redone.
 - The Committee felt this project is critical enough to postpone another project and reallocate its additional \$58,000 for a total of \$103,000.
 - The Committee requests additional funding support from the Full Council to be able to complete this project.

MOTION put forth by M. Collins.

- Reallocate funding not to exceed \$25,000 from FFY24 B. Unallocated to support the NSR911 Electrical Circuit Redundancy.
- Seconded by N. Hovey.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: C. Ryan
- The motion passed.
 - Regional Equipment Cache
 - Updating Cache Radios
 - The NERAC Radio cache is outdated and needs upgrading to be more interoperable for planned events and incidents.
 - Based on spending trends, approximately \$100,000 from the Cache Maintenance line item will not be spent down by FFY23 deadline.
 - This would cover approximately 15 radios.
 - The Interoperability Committee discussed and provided input on radio type and requirements for a phased refresh.

MOTION put forth by C. Ryan.

- Reallocate \$100,000 from FFY23 D.02 Regional Cache Maintenance to purchase radios.
- Seconded by N. Hovey.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None



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- The motion passed.
 - Firefighting Skids for ATVs were successfully procured.
 - Signatures on the new MOU are in progress.
- Evacuation/Sheltering
 - Sheltering Trailers and Equipment Disposal
 - The Sheltering Committee met on February 26th to review Trailer and Sheltering Equipment survey results. There was overwhelming interest with over 60 responses, and only 20 trailers available.
 - The Committee agreed on a distribution approach: 1 trailer per community, prioritize 2024 requests, then first-come first-served with preference for regional sheltering use.
 - MAPC will coordinate disposal approval with EOPSS before scheduling trailer pick-up.
- **Discipline & State Agency Liaison Updates**
 - Discipline Updates:
 - Law Enforcement
 - Ongoing planning and coordination for FIFA-related events and impacts in the region.
 - Continued discussion around policy/legislative issues affecting operations including the PROTECT Act.
 - Fire Services
 - Chief D. Sencabaugh was voted as 2nd Vice President of the Fire Chiefs Association of MA.
 - Proposed changes to building stairway codes (single stairway allowances) are a concern.
 - Major event planning underway (e.g., Boston Marathon, regional commemorations) requiring substantial resource coordination.
 - Advocacy efforts at the federal level for fire service funding.
 - Local Government Administration
 - MA Municipal Association leaders are monitoring PROTECT Act implications.
 - Emphasis on need for clearer guidance and avoiding conflicting responsibilities at the local level.
 - Cybersecurity
 - Increased concern regarding threats to municipal infrastructure, particularly water and power systems.
 - C. Cousens recently moderated a session for MMA on practical AI applications for municipalities.
 - Hospitals
 - Salem Hospital recently had to use the portable morgue purchased by NERAC.
 - Emergency Medical Services



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- Ongoing regional coordination and support from Region 2 for training and continuity efforts for Region 3, including the Nero's Law K9 practical trainings.
- Active work on funding advocacy and development of additional training opportunities
- Public Safety Communications
 - Continued regional PSAP expansion and consolidation: NSR911 took on North Reading and Groveland in the fall, and will be taking on Hamilton and Boxford shortly, expected to be at 11 communities by end of the fiscal year.
 - Capacity challenges emerging; evaluation of system upgrades and future planning underway.
- Public Schools
 - Former NERAC Council Member Steve Zrike will be the Governor's new Secretary of Education.
 - Continued efforts to improve coordination and reduce complexity for public safety response in schools.
 - Development of a dedicated public safety internet network to support secure and reliable access for responders.
 - Ongoing facility mapping initiatives, including standardized building labeling and access point identification to support emergency response.
- State/Regional Agency Updates
 - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
 - Ongoing planning and coordination for multiple large-scale spring and summer events (e.g., Boston Marathon, FIFA World Cup, Tall Ships, July 4th).
 - Anticipated stand up of the State EOC for major scheduled events and heightened readiness posture.
 - Continued monitoring of national conditions contributing to elevated alert levels.
 - Recent MEMA East EMD meeting included discussion of recent storm response and federal assistance processes (IDA/PDA).
 - MEMA training website rebranded to "NEMTEC Training."
 - Region 3 Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC)
 - None.
- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
 - None.

MOTION put forth by P. Cohen.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by N. Hovey.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None



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- Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

****Next Meeting: April 9, 2026****

ATTENDEES – COUNCIL MEMBERS

Paul Cohen: Town of Chelmsford
Mike Collins: Beverly Public Services & Engineering
Colby Cousens: Town of Danvers Information Technology
David Evans: Newbury Fire Department
Jason Gilliland, Chair: Marblehead Fire Department
Neal Hovey: Topsfield Police Department
Patrick Keefe: Andover Police Department
Ryan Knowles: City of Gloucester Information Services
Scott Morrison: Tri Town School Union
Paul Parisi: Ipswich Fire Department
Christopher Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center
Derek Sencabaugh: Lexington Fire Department
Dave Spinosa: (Proxy) Essex County Sheriff's Department

ABSENT – COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kevin Coppinger: Essex County Sheriff's Department
Anthony Chui: Melrose/Stoneham/Wakefield Health & Human Services
Dorinda Goodman: Town of Lexington Information Technology
Bill Klag: Emergency North Shore Medical Center
John LeLacheur: Beverly Police Department
Heather Tecce: Lowell Emergency Management

ATTENDEES – OTHER

Karla Kahale: MAPC
Matt Kolhonen: MEMA
Richard Menard: Malden Fire Department
Amy Reilly: MAPC
Dave Rodham: MEMA
Lauren Sacks: MAPC

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- March 12, 2026 Meeting Agenda
- February 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- Law Enforcement Candidate Resume and Interview Questions
- FFY23-24 Budget Updates
- FFY2026 Project Request Form Draft
- NERAC Project Request Checklist Draft